



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 23, 2023 9:30am
Earth Care Sunday

Gathering

PRELUDE “Flute Clocks: Andante, Menuett, The Call of the Quail” by Josef Haydn
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Young and old and everyone in between—

**ALL: we envision a world where all live in harmony with each other
and with God’s wonderful creation.**

ONE: We look forward to a time when Christ’s love

ALL: is in all that we say and do.

ONE: We renew our commitment together, with God’s grace,

**ALL: to respect the gifts that have been given to us and to use those gifts
for the good of the poor and vulnerable of this earth.**

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

God of the Fertile Fields 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Creator God, forgive us for our sins against you and your creation. In your name, may we turn from our sins and work towards a new creation, one in which all creatures are freed from the bondage of greed and accumulation and are able to flourish into their creatureliness. May this church be a site of redemption, resilience, and hospitality; an extension of your love to all who are affected by the climate crisis. In this land, this structure, this community, this worship, may we love you more fully by seeking justice for our neighbors. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 607

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 2:15–18 (CEB)

Liz Chandler

Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. Someone might claim, "You have faith and I have action." But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action.

ANTHEM

"Look at the World"

by John Rutter

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Look at the world, ev'rything all around us: look at the world, and marvel ev'ry day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way.*

(Refrain)

***Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see:
all the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing, all things come of thee.***

*Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain.
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain:*

(Refrain)

*Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Ev'rything grows, ev'rything has a season, 'till it is gathered to the Father's fold:*

(Refrain)

*Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of his love.
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; his is the earth, and his the heav'ns above:*

***Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see:
all the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing, all things come of thee.***

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:42–45 (CEB)

'I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.'

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Future's in Our Hands"

Elder Rick Randolph

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Music by John Rutter

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" Words by Mrs. C.F. Alexander

Beth Lillian, soprano

***(Refrain) All thing bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings. (Refrain)*

*The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky;
the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. (Refrain)*

*He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)*

Sending

*HYMN 713

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

TENDERNESS

713 Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
E^b F7 B^b Cm7 Fsus F



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter,
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

(C) (G) (Em) (Am7) (D) (G) (G)
E^b B^b Gm Cm7 F B^b B^b



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Psalm XVIII:
The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”
Linda Dover, organist

by Benedetto Marcello

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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